



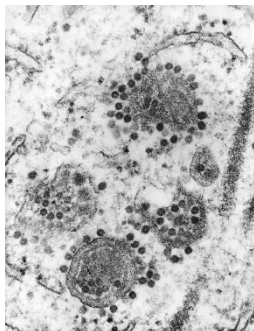
EVD-LabNet Newsletter 2, December 2021

About EVD-LabNet

EVD-LabNet is a multi-disciplinary network of expert laboratories. Its aim is to strengthen Europe's laboratory capacity and capability to respond to emerging, re-emerging and vector-borne viral disease threats. The network laboratories are located in the EU/EEA and EU candidate countries. These laboratories have a strong basic and/or translation research competence in virology and human (reference) diagnostics and/or experience in diagnostic test development for viral pathogens. The network is a continuation of ENIVD that was founded about 30 years ago and that is known since 2016 as EVD-LabNet.

Emerging alphaviruses, webinar

On 7 October 2021, EVD-LabNet organized a webinar on emerging alphaviruses. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Anna Papa, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and Dr. Chantal Reusken, Centre for Infectious Disease Control, RIVM, the Netherlands. The program covered a broad range of aspects related to the emergence of alphaviruses including some preliminary data on the 2021 outbreak with Sindbis virus in Finland:



- Epidemiology of emerging alphaviruses in Europe, *Prof. Olli Vapalahti (University of Helsinki) & Dr. Luisa Barzon (University of Padova)*
- Laboratory diagnosis of emerging alphaviruses, *Dr. Laura Pezzi (Aix Marseille University)*
- Veterinary aspects of emerging alphaviruses, *Dr. Gaëlle Gonzales (Anses Maisson-Alfort)*
- Emerging alphaviruses in the clinic, *Prof. Nick Beeching (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)*

The webinar was open to those interested within and outside the network and was attended by over 150 persons; the recording of the webinar is available on the [EVD-Labnet webpage](#) on the ECDC website – visible under the “training courses and webinars” section.

The webinar is part of a series of activities by EVD-LabNet focussing on emerging alphaviruses.

Website

A new [EVD-LabNet webpage](#) has been created on the ECDC website and was launched in September 2021. The website provides essential background information on the network, its governance, network news and announcements of upcoming activities and the network directory. The network directory provides information on the virology expertise and laboratory capacity for the specific target viruses of the network as available at the member laboratories. The directory also provide contact details of the focal point in the network laboratories. The directory has an easy to use search engine that enables easy access to necessary information for diagnostic and/or virology support. The directory can be accessed from the EVD-LabNet webpage.

External Quality Assessment of rodent-borne virus detection

On 8 November the proficiency panels in the external quality assessment on the molecular and serological detection of rodent-borne viruses, including orthohantavirus and the mammarenavirus lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus were shipped. The molecular panels were shipped to 28 participants and the serology panels to 24 participants. As a lot of EVD-LabNet members are involved in the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic response, the EQA has an extended deadline for result submission. The deadline for submission is 31 December 2021.

Scientific Advisory Board.

On 15 December, the EVD-LabNet Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) had its first meeting. The network coordinator presented the network set-up, the activity plan for the first two specific contracts and the progress so far. Topics for network activities for the coming contracts were discussed as well as options for crosslinking EVD-LabNet activities with activities of other relevant EU projects like EVAg and SHARP JA, as well as with activities from a One Health perspective. The composition of the SAB can be found on the [EVD-LabNet webpage](#).



Upcoming activities.

- EpiPulse training for EVD-LabNet contact points will take place on 25 January.
- A webinar on West Nile virus and Usutu virus infections prevention, surveillance and control will take place on 26 January (activity not organised by EVD-LabNet); detailed information about the webinar will be published on ECDC website early January.
- Winter 2021-2022, External Quality Assessment on molecular detection of emerging Alphaviruses. Registration is not open yet.
- 28-30 March 2022, in-depth, interactive course on emerging alphaviruses. Limited number of participants. Priority will be given to EVD-LabNet network members. Registration is not open yet.
- Factsheets on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus, Toscana virus, Nipah virus and Marburg virus to be published on ECDC website in spring 2022.

For more information please contact at: EVD-LabNet@RIVM.nl

